

1 I claim:

2 1. A computer-readable storage medium stored within a transportable computer,
3 said storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to
4 operate as follows:

5 (a) displaying to a user a menu listing a plurality of items available for ordering
6 from an item provider;

7 (b) in response to user input of a selection of an item to order, receiving said
8 selection from said user;

9 (c) storing said selection in an order file in a memory storage device on said
10 transportable computer;

11 (d) optionally repeating steps (b) and (c) for storing additional items in said order
12 file; and

13 (e) in response to a user instruction to transmit said order file, remotely
14 transmitting said order file to a receiving terminal at a location of said item provider
15 without physical connection between said transportable computer and said receiving
16 terminal.

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18 2. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, said remotely transmitting
19 instruction further comprising remotely transmitting said order file to a receiving terminal
20 without telephony or satellite communication between said transportable computer and
21 said receiving terminal.

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1 3. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, said storage medium
2 further comprising computer executable code for instructing a computer to display to said
3 user a listing of a plurality of item providers, and displaying said menu in response to
4 receiving user input of a selection of a single item provider from said plurality of item
5 providers.

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7 4. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 3, wherein said menu
8 comprises a listing of substantially all items available for ordering from said single item
9 provider.

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11 5. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein said menu
12 comprises a listing of substantially all items available for ordering from said item
13 provider.

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15 6. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, said storage medium
16 further comprising computer executable code for instructing said computer to receive a
17 user instruction to open a previously saved order file from said memory storage device, to
18 optionally repeat steps (b) through (c) for storing additional items in said order file and
19 editing previously stored items in said order file, and to store a revised order file
20 comprising at least said additional items and said edited items in said memory storage
21 device.

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1 7. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein said instruction to
2 remotely transmit said order file to a receiving terminal comprises instructing said
3 computer to remotely transmit said order file via infrared transmission.

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5 8. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein said order file is
6 formatted for reception by an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

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8 9. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein said instruction to
9 remotely transmit said order file to a receiving terminal comprises instructing said
10 computer to remotely transmit said order file via radio frequency transmission.

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12 10. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, said storage medium
13 further comprising computer executable code for instructing said computer to
14 automatically receive a menu update instruction after transmitting an order file to a
15 receiving terminal, and to modify said menu listing with said menu update instruction to
16 create and store in said computer-readable storage medium a current menu listing.

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18 11. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, said storage medium
19 further comprising computer executable code for instructing said computer to calculate a
20 total price of items in said order file, and display said total price to said user.

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22 12. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein said item
23 provider comprises a restaurant.

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13. A computer-readable storage medium at a location of an item provider and in communication with a receiving terminal at said location, said storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate as follows:

(a) in response to a customer transmission to said receiving terminal of an order file stored on a transportable computer, said order file comprising an identification of a plurality of items to be ordered, receiving said order file from said transportable computer without physical connection between said transportable computer and said receiving terminal; and

(b) transmitting order information relating to said order file from said receiving terminal to an order processing terminal within said location, said order processing terminal having a human readable display configured to display a human readable list of said order information.

14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, said receiving instruction further comprising receiving said order file from said transportable computer without telephony or satellite communication between said transportable computer and said receiving terminal.

15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, said storage medium further comprising computer executable code for instructing said computer to operate as follows:

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(c) displaying a message to said customer indicating that said order has been accepted.

16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein said receiving terminal comprises a remote transmission receiver positioned adjacent to a customer drive-through lane at said location.

17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein said remote transmission receiver further comprises an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein said remote transmission receiver further comprises a radio frequency transceiver.

19. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein said receiving terminal comprises a remote transmission receiver positioned at a customer service counter at said location.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein said remote transmission receiver further comprises an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

21. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein said remote transmission receiver further comprises a radio frequency transceiver.

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1 22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein said receiving
2 terminal comprises a remote transmission receiver positioned at a personal customer
3 dining location at said item provider location.

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5 23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said remote
6 transmission receiver further comprises an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

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8 24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said remote
9 transmission receiver further comprises a radio frequency transceiver.

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11 25. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, said storage medium
12 further comprising computer executable code for instructing said computer to calculate a
13 total price of said list of items in said order file, and display said total price to said
14 customer.

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16 26. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, said storage medium
17 further comprising computer executable code for instructing a computer to automatically
18 transmit a menu update instruction to said transportable computer after receiving an order
19 file from said transportable computer.

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21 27. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein said item
22 provider comprises a restaurant.

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1 28. A system for implementing a remote ordering system at a location of an item
2 provider, comprising:

3 a receiving terminal comprising a remote transmission receiver configured to
4 receive a transmission from a remote transportable computer placed in proximity to said
5 remote transmission receiver, wherein said transmission comprises an order file including
6 a listing of one or more items to be remotely ordered by a user; and

7 an order processing terminal in communication with said receiving terminal and
8 configured to receive order information relating to said order file from said receiving
9 terminal, said order processing terminal further comprising a human readable display
10 configured to display a human readable list of said order information.

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12 29. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 28, wherein
13 said remote transmission receiver is positioned adjacent to a customer drive-through lane
14 at said location.

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16 30. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 29, said
17 remote transmission receiver further comprising an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

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19 31. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 29, said
20 remote transmission receiver further comprising a radio frequency transceiver.

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1 32. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 28, wherein
2 said remote transmission receiver is positioned at a customer service counter at said
3 location.

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5 33. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 32, said
6 remote transmission receiver further comprising an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

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8 34. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 32, said
9 remote transmission receiver further comprising a radio frequency transceiver.

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11 35. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 28, wherein
12 said remote transmission receiver is positioned at a personal customer dining location at
13 said item provider location.

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15 36. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 35, said
16 remote transmission receiver further comprising an IrDA compliant infrared transceiver.

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18 37. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 35, said
19 remote transmission receiver further comprising a radio frequency transceiver.

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21 38. The system for implementing a remote ordering system of claim 28, wherein
22 said item provider comprises a restaurant.

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1 39. A method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant comprising the
2 following steps:

3 (a) providing a remote transmission receiver positioned in proximity to a
4 customer ordering location at said restaurant;

5 (b) in response to a remote customer transmission to said remote transmission
6 receiver of an order file stored on a transportable computer, said order file comprising an
7 identification of a plurality of items to be ordered, receiving said order file from said
8 transportable computer without physical connection between said transportable computer
9 and said receiving terminal; and

10 (c) transmitting order information relating to said order file from said receiving
11 terminal to an order processing terminal within said restaurant, said order processing
12 terminal having a human readable display configured to display a human readable list of
13 said order information.

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15 40. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39, said
16 receiving step further comprising receiving said order file from said transportable
17 computer without telephony or satellite communication between said transportable
18 computer and said receiving terminal.

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20 41. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39,
21 further comprising the step of (d) notifying said customer that said order has been
22 accepted.

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1 42. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39,
2 wherein said providing step further comprises providing said remote transmission
3 receiver such that said remote transmission receiver is positioned adjacent to a customer
4 drive-through lane at said restaurant.

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6 43. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 42,
7 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving an infrared transmission
8 including said order file.

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10 44. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 42,
11 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving a radio frequency transmission
12 including said order file.

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14 45. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39,
15 wherein said providing step further comprises providing said remote transmission
16 receiver such that said remote transmission receiver is positioned at a customer service
17 counter at said restaurant.

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19 46. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 45,
20 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving an infrared transmission
21 including said order file.

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1 47. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 45,
2 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving a radio frequency transmission
3 including said order file.

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5 48. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39,
6 wherein said providing step further comprises providing said remote transmission
7 receiver such that said remote transmission receiver is positioned at a personal customer
8 dining location at said restaurant.

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10 49. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 48,
11 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving an infrared transmission
12 including said order file.

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14 50. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 48,
15 wherein said receiving step further comprises receiving a radio frequency transmission
16 including said order file.

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18 51. The method for remotely receiving an order at a restaurant of claim 39,
19 further comprising the step of (d) automatically transmitting a menu update instruction to
20 said transportable computer after receiving said order file from said transportable
21 computer.